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FAIRMONT PLANNING & MANAGEMENT SERIES

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

1977





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## INTRODUCTION

A Community Facilities Plan identifies and inventories service facilities provided in the community by the public sector. This plan primarily focuses on public facilities and services provided in the Fairmont Community by the Town of Fairmont. Briefly discussed are some services provided by other public agencies such as Robeson County and by private sector providers which are fundamental to the health and welfare of the Fairmont Community. However, these services and facilities are not associated with the long range budgeting and policy decision making of the Fairmont Town Board. This plan identifies and inventories existing facilities; it evaluates these facilities for adequacy; it indicates capital items and facilities which are lacking; and it recommends capital items and facilities needed for future growth.

Each service sector, capital item or facility identified in this plan has short and long term operating and capital investments associated with its basic function. In order to provide a basic municipal service, personnel, equipment, space, and continued financial commitment are necessary. In addition, the requirements of providing the service are constantly changing and it is necessary to provide a means for evaluating, updating or replacing elements of that service which are obsolete, worn out or just not doing the job. Justification for continuing any service or facility should be based on the community need for that service or facility.

This plan is the initial document for developing a means for evaluating the municipal service sector and the capital items needed for performing the service. Based on the information collected in the preparation of this document, two other plans





are planned to be developed; the Capital Improvements Plan and the Capital Improvement Budget. The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) develops a strategy for initial acquisition or replacement of equipment, land, buildings or other needed facilities. Generally this plan forecasts needed items over a period of several years. The Capital Improvements Budget is developed from these two documents and it schedules the systematic allocation of funds for acquisition, replacement or development of needed capital items. Simply stated, these documents assist municipal management and decision makers in identifying capital items needed to provide a municipal service and a means for improving community facilities over a long term growth period without burdening the operating budget by allocating systematically funds for these improvements.

A Community Facilities Plan was developed for Fairmont in 1967. Although this plan updates the original document, this plan was developed independently for that document because of the great number of changes that have occurred in the ten year period. However, many of the suggestions and recommendations are still valid, but the context of Fairmont's situation has greatly changed.





## PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Sector consists of the municipal police department, municipal and rural fire departments, rescue squad and county ambulance service, and the communication/dispatch facility. The Town of Fairmont directly provides police, communications, municipal fire services (volunteers and paid municipal fire personnel), and assists the local rescue squad and rural fire department.

### FAIRMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Fairmont Police Department is a municipal service funded through the annual operating budget. The department consists of a Chief and eight officers. The police department is located on the first floor of the municipal building.

The minimum manpower requirements as established by the FBI for a population of 3,000 would be six officers; the existing manpower provides one officer for every 333 residents, while the FBI minimum establishes one officer per 500 population. By having the existing force at eight officers and a Chief, the Town can provide two officers per shift, whereas towns of comparable size must have some shifts with only one officer on duty. The department is broken into four shifts, each consisting of two officers with three shifts on daily and one shift off duty. The Police Chief schedules shifts so that all shifts rotate throughout the work month.

All officers are required to be certified and meet the police officer standards established by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Council. In addition to the basic training requirements required for certification, the





Town and police department has a policy to send officers for additional training when police science courses are offered locally in the region. The department also provides training seminars in public relations, safety lectures, and on-the-job training.

Police department facilities consist of the station facility located in the municipal building, a temporary holding jail, and three police vehicles. Equipment such as weapons, uniforms, etc. are not considered capital items to be included in this text. Currently the existing space allocated to this department is grossly inadequate because of the layout of the space. Included in the master plan for the renovation of the municipal building is room and design layout sufficient for proper space utilization of the department. This plan calls for a squad room, two interrogation rooms, a breathalyzer room, an evidence room, bathroom facilities, the Chief's office and waiting room, and the communication center. Contiguous to the proposed police department layout is the courtroom and probation facilities. The renovation of the first floor of the municipal building will provide sufficient departmental space and facilities for a projected fifteen to twenty year period.

The department has a temporary holding jail facility located in the rear of the municipal fire station. The jail has three cells, one with four bunks and two with two bunks. Prisoners kept in this facility usually remain there less than ten hours before being transferred to the County jail or released. There is no full-time jailer, this duty has been assigned to the Police Chief.





The department maintains three police vehicles. Two cars are primary vehicles with the third a backup unit. Municipal policy calls for replacing one car each year, placing a car on reserve status and disposing of the standby vehicle.

Although the police vehicles are the major capital item which requires replacement annually, radio equipment is also subject to wear and tear and requiring replacement. The UHF base station, the mobile units in the vehicles, and the walkie-talkies are capital items which should be considered in the Capital Improvements Plan and Capital Budget.



## FAIRMONT MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

There are two fire departments in Fairmont, a department which is funded through municipal funds and rural fire department which fights fires outside the municipal limits. Both fire departments are housed in the same structure. The municipal department is made up of a full-time Chief hired by the Town and a thirty man volunteer force. The volunteer firemen are required to have forty-two hours of fire training per year; they accomplish this by meeting twice a month. In addition, the department has controlled fires for practice and when available, dilapidated structures are used to simulate structure fires as a further training mechanism.

Major equipment in the fire department consists of two pumper vehicles, air packs, and radio/pager communications. The primary vehicle is an American La France pumper. It is a 1969 model which has a 1,000 G.P.M. pumping capacity, carries 500 gallons of water and is equipped with 1,200 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet of 1½ inch hose, 200 feet of ¾ inch hose, 35 foot and 10 foot ladders, and three air packs. Although considered beyond its useful life of 20 years according to the American Insurance Association, the second vehicle, a 1955 Ford pumper is still serviceable and capable of performing its required firefighting tasks. This pumper has a 750 G.P.M. pumping capacity, stores a 300 gallon supply of water, and carries 1,000 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet of 1½ inch hose, 35 and 10 foot ladders and air packs.

All vehicles are radio equipped. Alerting the volunteer force is accomplished through pagers, telephones and 2 sirens located at the municipal building. All dispatching is performed from the Fairmont Communications Center.





The Town currently has a fire rating of Class 7. A lower rating would require additional equipment and personnel. The principle community benefit from achieving a lower rating would be lower fire insurance premiums to the residents. This rating system has been developed by the American Insurance Association. Although the grading system is complex, some of the basic requirements are:

- a) Any high value district (business or industrial) should be located within a 3/4 mile radius of the fire station.
- b) High density residential areas should be located within 1½ miles of the station.
- c) Personnel training should be held regularly for all department members.
- d) Systematic building inspections for fire code violations should be conducted on a regular basis and all records maintained for future use.
- e) Fire prevention codes of the State and municipality should be enforced.
- f) Water lines should be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter and fire hydrants should be spaced in high volume fire districts at distances no greater than 300 feet and 500 feet in the residential areas.
- g) All vehicles over 20 years old should be placed on standby status and replaced by a modern vehicle.
- h) The fire station should be located in an accessible location for its service area and the station should have sufficient space for the storage of vehicles and equipment.





## FAIRMONT RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organized in 1958, the Fairmont Rural Fire Department is a volunteer organization which provides fire protection to Fairmont Community residents which live outside the Town limits. The jurisdiction of this department is based on a four mile radius as measured from the fire station location.

This volunteer organization consists of twenty-eight fire fighters who meet monthly for training; all members have completed the 36 hour training requirements. The American Insurance Association's fire rating for the department's service area is 9AA.

Membership fees are the principle source of revenue for the department's operating and capital budgets. Members pay \$15.00 for a dwelling and lot plus \$5.00 for the next five buildings and \$2.50 for each structure over five. A service fee of \$100 is charged for fire calls to non-members. Limited financial support is also provided by Robeson County and the Town of Fairmont. In addition, Fairmont provides communications equipment and dispatching service and space for the rural vehicles and equipment at the municipal fire station

The Rural Fire Department has two pumpers, two tankers and one emergency van. The 1968 Chevrolet pumper has a 350 GPM pump capacity, a 1,000 gallon water tank, 1,000 feet of 1½ inch hose and 600 feet of 2½ inch hose. The second pumper is a 1974 Chevrolet chassis with a 350 GPM pump capacity, a 1,200 gallon water tank, 1,000 feet of 1½ inch hose and 600 feet of 2½ inch hose. The department has two tankers,





a 1968 Chevrolet with a 1,600 gallon tank which is solely used for transporting water and a 1974 Ford 1,000 gallon tanker which is equipped to fight fires with a portable pump and hose apparatus. The department also has a 1972 Ford van which carries first aid equipment, resuscitators, generators, oxygen, air packs, stretchers, exhaust fan, and other small equipment.

The Rural Fire Department's equipment and vehicles are in good condition, however the major area of concern is the insufficient space available to house the equipment and vehicles. This problem is further discussed in the Building and Grounds section of this report.

#### COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Fairmont Communication Center is located in the first floor of the Municipal Building and this service is under the supervision of the Fairmont Police Chief. The center is equipped with U.H.F. and V.H.F. radios, burgler alarms, municipal, police and emergency 911 phone systems. The Communications Center is staffed by four trained dispatchers who rotate shifts on a schedule similar to the police shift schedule.

Fairmont police, municipal and rural fire services, the rescue squad and ambulance services are dispatched from this facility. In addition, radio communication is maintained with the Robeson County Sheriff Department. The Emergency 911 phone number directs all emergency calls to a qualified dispatcher who after securing the proper and necessary information alerts the proper agency to respond to the emergency.





## SOUTH ROBESON RESCUE UNIT

The South Robeson Rescue Unit, formed in July '76 is a volunteer organization composed of over fifty members providing at the scene emergency medical care, ambulance transportation, and rescue extrication for the Fairmont community and the entire southeastern section of Robeson County.

The Unit is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership for two year, staggered terms and consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Chief, Assistant Chief, two Captains and two Directors at Large. The Chief, Assistant Chief, both Captains and one of the Directors at Large must be members who are actively serving on the ambulance teams or the Heavy Rescue Squad. Any Unit member may hold any of the other officer positions.

The membership of the Unit has, as a result of personal capabilities and interest, in effect voluntarily divided itself into three identifiable groups: (1) ambulance team, (2) heavy rescue squad, and (3) supportive. Approximately thirty members are manning rotating ambulance teams providing primary, first call ambulance service during the hours of 7:00 P.M. until 7:00 A.M. Monday through Friday and for twenty-four hours on each Saturday and Sunday. In addition, backup ambulance capability is provided during all other hours in support of the Robeson County Ambulance Service. While the number of ambulance teams and the number on each team may vary with the fluctuating availability of qualified volunteers, there are currently ten, three person ambulance teams. Ten members, several of which also serve on the ambulance teams, make up the heavy rescue squad, which is available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week in the event that extrication or other services involving special tools and training are needed. The supportive members are not involved in actual emergency medical service delivery, but are





essential to the Unit in that they perform administrative functions, conduct fund raising projects, and generally assist in the development and maintenance of a broad base of community support for the Unit.

Since the organization of the SRRU, two emergency medical technician (EMT) classes have been held in Fairmont. Approximately sixty persons successfully completed the first class and approximately twenty additional people passed the EMT requirements at the conclusion of the second course. While not all the qualified EMTs have the aptitude and/or desire to serve on ambulance teams and/or on the heavy rescue squad, a sufficient number of certified EMTs are available in the area to adequately man the teams.

Equipment owned by the Unit consist of a State certified 1975 Ford rescue truck, recall pagers, a fourteen foot McKee boat and trailer, and various ambulance/rescue tools and equipment exceeding State certification requirements. The truck has a 14 foot enclosed body and is equipped with heavy rescue tools; it is also equipped for ambulance transport and provides backup capability for this service. The primary ambulance is the Robeson County Ambulance assigned to Fairmont; this ambulance is manned Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. by County personnel and by SRRU personnel during all other hours. Each ambulance team member picks up a recall pager before going on duty and is then alerted by the police dispatcher via the pager when an ambulance call is to be made. Each Heavy Rescue Squad member has been issued a pager and charger since they are subject to being recalled at any time. Emergency calls are made by the public to the Police Department Communications Center utilizing the 911 emergency telephone system. Current plans are under way to replace the present boat, which is too large and heavy for easy use, with a more maneuverable one. Except as new types of equipment become available and as present equipment is lost or consumed, the equipment inventory of the Unit is at a satisfactory level.





## PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITY SERVICE

Public Works Division consists of services and utilities under the supervision of the Fairmont Public Works Director. Public Works activities include program administration, streets and storm drainage, sanitation, maintenance garage, water and sewer operations. Although the Public Works section has been departmentalized for operating budgetary and administrative purposes, the equipment and personnel assigned to a specific department are utilized when necessary in other departments. The coordination and integration of personnel and equipment is a prime responsibility of the Public Works Director and Public Works Administrative Department.

### PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

The administration section of Public Works consists of the director and a secretary. It is their function to schedule and coordinate personnel, equipment and projects, to respond to citizen inquiries, requests and complaints, to maintain records relating to employment, purchasing, and cost analysis. The administrative section is housed in the Marvin Pittman Public Works Building on Morro Street.

### STREETS AND DRAINAGE

In Fairmont there are 24.1 miles of streets. The Town maintains 15.87 miles, while the State of North Carolina maintains 8.23 miles. Of the total mileage maintained by the Town, approximately 2.37 miles are unsurfaced. In August 1976, a list of thirty-nine streets needing repair or initial surfacing or resurfacing was prepared for the Town Board's consideration and to be ranked in priority order. The Board selected fourteen streets to be initially paved or resurfaced; this paving project upgraded 12,775 feet of road surface (2.4 miles) in the community. In addition, the N.C. Department of Transportation resurfaced portions of the major State maintained thoroughfares in the Town. The streets remaining on the priority list are scheduled to be





reevaluated and a new paving priority list will be developed by the Town Board for subsequent years. The Town Board has also adopted a policy to use all Powell Bill funds for street repairs and to fund other street projects and personnel out of the General Fund.

The Street Department has been assigned five employees under its authorized Position and Pay Plan. A supervisor and four laborers are employed and their routine duties consist of street maintenance, repair and cleaning. Due to the limited equipment and staff, most of the major street projects such as initial surfacing and re-surfacing are undertaken by private contractors.

The Street Department is also responsible for the storm drainage system in the Town. This system consists of major drainage canals (the Old Field Swamp Channel and Mill Branch Canal), open ditches, underground drainage tiles and some curb and gutter improvements. The topography of Fairmont is basically flat and drainage is a major problem in some portions of the community. Further, there are very few programs which have funds to assist communities to correct drainage problems. The Town has authorized its consulting engineering firm to begin evaluation of the drainage situation in the community. To date the Northwest Fairmont community area has been completed and major drainage improvements had an estimated cost of \$200,000 to \$300,000. This project area consisted of a four block area. North Central Fairmont is currently being surveyed and detailed drainage plans are expected to be available in the near future.





## WATER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

Fairmont's potable water supply is provided by two deep 400 foot wells; they both have a capacity of 500 gallons per minute. Currently the well water is aerated treated with sodium chloride, chlorinated and pumped into 100,000 gallon underground reservoirs and two elevated tanks with capacities of 50,000 gallons and 60,000 gallons. Monthly pumping records indicate an average of 3,000,000 gallons are piped into the water distribution system; the peak pumping periods are associated with summer, generally July and August have the greatest demand.

The existing distribution system has pipe diameters which vary from two to eight inches. The Fairmont Town Board has adopted a policy of phasing out all distribution pipes under six inches. During the period 1975-1976, 10,644 lineal feet of six inch water lines were installed in the Fairmont water system as a part of the Title X Grant funded by E.D.A.

The Water Department is responsible for all aspects of the water operations, pumping, treatment distribution and meter reading. In the operations section of the Water Department, three persons are employed; two laborers and a supervisor. In the administrative section, the billing and collection is handled by one clerical position.

Equipment used by the Water Department is generally shared with other public works departments. Current inventory of equipment assigned to this department consists of a 1974 pickup truck, a 1974 International backhoe, a 1974 two-ton truck, and a 1967 pickup. Most of the equipment is in adequate condition, however the 1967 pickup should be replaced in the near future.





All areas within the corporate limits of the Town are served by municipal water. In 1975, a Community Development Grant received by Robeson County extended water lines outward from the Town into the built-up contiguous areas along major thoroughfares. This system addition has been turned over to Fairmont through a County-Town Agreement.

Currently, the major activity programmed for immediate construction in the Water Department is a Capital Improvement Project which has been approved for funding by the Economic Development Administration under the Local Public Works Program. This \$514,300 project consists of drilling a 400 foot, 500 GPM deep well, erecting a 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank, building a 100,000 gallon ground storage reservoir, constructing a well house, making site improvements and equipping the facility with an auxiliary power plant, chlorinating and aerating equipment. This project should be able to provide Fairmont's water supply with sufficient storage capacity and pressure necessary to accommodate growth and development in both residential and industrial sectors for the next twenty years. The only other major water improvements project remaining to be implemented will be a crosstown 12 inch water main; this improvement is recommended for future consideration.

#### SEWERAGE COLLECTION FACILITIES

Fairmont's sewerage collection facilities consists of collection lines and the waste treatment plant. For the most part, sewer refuse is transported to the waste treatment plant by gravity flow. A recent project associated with the Robeson County Community Development Grant, constructed a gravity flow outfall line from the North Fairmont area and eliminated a lift station. Pipe sizes in the collection system range from two to eight inches. Although the minimum acceptable size for new projects





is eight inches, many of the older areas of the community have pipe of insufficient size and these areas need to be upgraded in the future. Areas of old, small diameter pipe are believed to be the source of some of the inflow and infiltration into the system during periods of heavy rain.

Fairmont's waste treatment plant is located on a one acre site between the Mill Branch and Brown Street. Built in late 1970, the plant with a 500,000 gallon capacity was designed to operate at a 95 percent efficiency. The plant's size is sufficient to serve a population of 5,000. It is a Class II or secondary waste treatment facility which is currently operating at 60 percent of its capacity; a daily average of 350,000 gallons is processed through this facility.

All areas within the Town limits are capable of being served by municipal sewers. There still remains a few outdoor privies in the Town, however these are found in two general locations, Northwest Fairmont and Old Field; most of the privies are associated with blighted, substandard homes.

Future expansions of the sewerage system will be associated with the 201 Facilities Program. The 201 program has three phases; planning and evaluating the existing and proposed system, detailed engineering specifications for expansion and improvements, and the actual construction process.

#### SANITATION SERVICES

Sanitation services are provided to all residential, commercial and industrial customers located in the corporate limits.

Residential backyard pickup is provided twice weekly. Two trucks collect garbage on four residential routes. Industrial and commercial pickup is provided on a 5 day basis. A local ordinance





requires industrial and commercial customers to place refuse in containers ranging from two to eight cubic feet.

The Sanitation Department is under the supervision of the Public Works Director. Nine laborers are employed to operate the residential and industrial/commercial sanitation routes. In addition, a leaf and branch crew consisting of two laborers are employed to pick up leaves, limbs, and other trash not placed in containers or picked up by the sanitation crews.

Equipment used by the Sanitation Department includes a 1974, 25 cubic yard packer; two 1972, 18 cubic yard packers, and a 1966, 18 cubic yard packer. Equipment shared with other departments consists of 2 two-ton flatbed trucks, a 1967 Ford and a 1974 Ford. Other major pieces of equipment assigned to the department are a 1974 wood chipper and a 1973 leaf collector and box.

Sanitation refuse is collected and transported to a new landfill site recently developed by Robeson County; the distance to the site is approximately 15 miles one-way. This is approximately 30 miles shorter than the 60 mile trip previously required before the acquisition of the new landfill site. However even this distance requires a large operating budget expenditure for automotive supplies and vehicular maintenance and repair. A sanitation fee is levied to offset some of these operating costs.

#### MUNICIPAL GARAGE & REPAIR SERVICE

The Town utilizes a portion of the Marvin Pittman Public Works Building for vehicular maintenance and repair shop. The garage is staffed by a full-time mechanic, who services all vehicles and equipment. The area of the public works building allocated to the shop is insufficient for working on more than one vehicle and some equipment such as the garbage trucks can not be serviced inside the facility. The garage area needs to be expanded and especially needed is a hydrolic lift for raising vehicles for servicing.





## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Town of Fairmont has titles to several tracts of land on which municipal building or facilities are located. Buildings and grounds have both operating and capital costs. Operating costs are generally a line item in the annual budget, whereas the capital costs and capital improvements are generally too expensive to be programmed in any one fiscal year. This section discusses these facilities as a separate section rather than including them in the individual operations or service section.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The municipal building is a three story, 21,950 square foot structure located on Cottage and Main Streets. The structure was originally built as a hotel. In 1974, the Town moved its administration and police departments into the building. The existing layout, basically the lobby and dining areas of the hotel had been adapted to accommodate the Town's business. However, this layout is grossly inadequate and a major renovation program is currently being developed by a consulting architectural firm. The initial plans call for renovation of the first floor, installation of a new elevator and repairs to the roof.

First floor plans call for the renovation of the courtroom, the police department and the water and finance departments. The finance and water billing departments will be enlarged and direct access from the parking lot is included in the master plan. The police department renovation will provide a squad room, two interrogation rooms, a breathalyzer room, an evidence room, bathroom facilities, the Chief's office, a public waiting room, a probation office and a communications center. The courtroom with judge's chamber, consultation room and other needed court facilities are also included in this project.





Detailed plans for the second floor have been authorized, however, funds are not currently available for construction. These plans call for offices for the Mayor, the Manager, the Planning Department and the Chamber of Commerce. Other office space will be available on the remainder of the second floor. Currently offices are being utilized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Robeson County Ambulance Service.

#### MUNICIPAL FIRE BUILDING

The municipal fire building houses the municipal fire department, the rural fire department, the municipal jail, office space, storage rooms and an apartment on the second floor. The municipal fire department houses its equipment in a two bay area containing approximately 1,337 square feet. The rural fire department also has two bays which have been added to the structure. Although separated by a wall, these bays contain approximately 1,348 square feet.

Even though the structure has been expanded to accommodate the rural fire equipment, both departments do not have sufficient space for their equipment. It has been suggested that the rural department consider a building project in the future.

The jail facility has already been discussed in the police department section. The jail has three cells, one with four bunks, and two with two bunks. This facility is a temporary holding jail and it is adequate for these purposes. A consideration suggested in the Need Assessment prepared in 1975 was that a cell be partitioned to accommodate female prisoners.

The apartment which is the second story of the municipal portion of the fire building consists of three bedrooms, bath, kitchen, and den area. The Town Board has authorized this apartment to be available rent free to someone who will provide fire support when the Fire Chief is not on duty.





### MARVIN PITTMAN PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

This is a brick building located on Morro Street commonly known as the ice plant. The structure is approximately 7,000 square feet which is divided in the following proportions, the automotive shop 1,000 square feet, administrative office 160 square feet, tool room 550 square feet and the remainder in access ways and storage. This facility is located in a fenced area approximately .6 acres in size. Also located on the site is a 100,000 gallon ground storage reservoir and aerator and a 50,000 gallon elevated storage tank. The remaining area is used for open storage. A shed roof extending along the exterior side of the building for approximately 77 feet provides shelter for various public works equipment.

### OTHER PROPERTIES

#### REYNOLDS TRACT:

A .48 acre tract of land located next to the Marvin Pittman Public Works building and grounds was donated to the Town by The Reynolds Tobacco Company in 1976. This donation was made in the honor of Mr. Charlie Stafford, Tobacco Sales Supervisor for Fairmont. This property will be used for the expansion of the public works storage yard.

#### WASTE TREATMENT TRACT:

The Fairmont waste treatment plant occupies approximately one acre of a 5.7 acre site. The remaining land currently is unused and undesignated.

#### WATER TREATMENT FACILITY - GERTRUDE ST. TRACT:

This tract is approximately one acre. A deep well, a 100,000 gallon ground reservoir, and aeration and chlorination equipment are found on the site. No expansion of this site is possible, however the facility is programmed to remain operational. Facility improvements such as rebuilding and recharging the aerators is to be expected from time to time.





#### WATER TREATMENT FACILITY - MARION STAGE ROAD TRACT:

A 1.7 acre tract recently purchased by the Town is the site of the \$500,000 well and tank project funded by the Local Public Works Grant. The construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1977. Included in this project is a deep 500 GPM well, 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank, a 100,000 gallon ground reservoir, a well house, auxiliary power equipment, chlorination and aeration equipment.

#### CEMETERIES:

Although there are no public cemeteries within the Fairmont city limits, two public cemeteries are located just outside the limits. These cemeteries are located one mile outside of Fairmont on N.C. 130. All the plots in the smallest cemetery nearest Fairmont have been sold but are not filled. When these plots have been filled, there will be no more burial space in that cemetery. The larger of the two cemeteries is only about half filled and adjacent land can be developed to provide enough space for all burials taking place during the planning period.

A private cemetery, the R.O. Floyd Memorial Cemetery, is located one-half mile outside Fairmont on the Marion Stage Road. The R.O. Floyd Memorial Cemetery had enough adjacent land to effectively meet Fairmont's needs for the next two planning periods.





## OTHER PUBLIC AND QUASI PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Although not funded by the Town of Fairmont, there are several supportive facilities and services provided by private or semipublic agencies and firms. Utilities such as electric and telephone, medical service, education, library services and recreation are briefly discussed in this section since they provide a basic service to the residents of Fairmont. However, it should be noted that they are not discussed in great detail since they are not directly related to the fiscal control of the Town.

### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Fairmont does not provide electrical power to its residents, rather it has given a franchise to Carolina Power and Light to operate the electrical service in the community. C P & L has provided this service since 1921. Besides providing residents and business with electrical power, C P & L sells power to the Town for its street lighting system. Lighting the municipal streets is an operational cost found in the annual budget.

In 1976, the Town Board requested an evaluation of its municipal street lighting system. The study called for a complete renovation of the existing system and replacing street light fixtures with higher intensity mercury vapor lights. The study called for initially increasing the number of lights based on location and distance standards. The second phase called for field investigation at night to seek out locations needing additional lighting.

The current inventory of street lights based on the recent system renovation indicated that two light intensity standards were established. Street lights along Main Street were replaced by fifty-two 21,000 lumen mercury vapor enclosed lights, while





residential areas were upgraded to semi-enclosed 7,000 lumen mercury vapor lamps. One hundred twenty-eight lamps were installed in the residential areas under these facility improvements. Fairmont has approximately 253 street lights in its upgraded system as compared to 221 before the renovation project. Additional lights as well as higher intensity lamps have significantly improved the quality of street lighting in the Town.

#### TELEPHONE SERVICES

The Southern Bell Telephone Company has provided dial service in Fairmont since about 1955. The local call area from Fairmont consist of Lumberton, Pembroke, and Rowland. The Southern Bell Telephone Company Collection Agency for Fairmont is located in the Southern National Bank. Southern Bell has an equipment storage and maintenance building located in Fairmont. The main business offices are located in Lumberton and the company's district office for this area is located in Wilmington.

Within the Fairmont telephone service area, a total of 5,762 telephones are listed. The breakdown of customer service registered 370 business phones and 3,146 residential phones. The remaining 2,246 phones were installed as extra phones in homes and places of business.

#### MEDICAL SERVICES

Fairmont's population base cannot support a hospital facility, however there is a private clinic located in the community. A single story brick structure located on Iona Street houses the clinic. The clinic facility has an emergency room, laboratory, x-ray room, patient examining rooms, doctor's offices, waiting and business office space. This facility is overcrowded with the high patient load.





From the opening of the clinic in 1959 to 1972, two doctors operated the clinic. A third doctor was added in 1972 and an additional doctor is expected to be added to the staff in the near future. Currently each doctor has a patient load over 1,667 families. Supportive personnel in the clinic also includes nurses, lab technicians and administrative secretaries.

The closest hospital is Lumberton's Southeastern General Hospital located twelve miles from Fairmont. The hospital has 272 general hospital beds, 80 extended care beds and a 10 bed psychiatric ward.

### EDUCATION

In the Fairmont school system there are four school complexes: two elementary schools grades K through 4 (one located in the city limits on Bradshaw and Maple Streets and one in Marietta community area), a middle school grades 5 through 8, and the high school.

The Fairmont Elementary School has seven buildings, three of which are in "fair" condition, two need replacing and two are mobile classrooms. The Marietta School consists of one main building and two mobile classrooms. The Middle School located on Iona Street is a seven building complex. Four buildings are in fair condition, two need remodeling and one structure is a mobile classroom. The Fairmont High School is a new complex partially completed in 1976 and additional buildings and site improvements are programmed for the future. The complex consists of three buildings and ten mobile classrooms.

The school system has 126 classrooms, with a student capacity of 2,950. Enrollment in the school system is approximately 2,725 students. The average student-teacher ratio ranges from 26 to 33 students per teacher.





## PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fairmont has no municipal public library in operation. There are no immediate plans to implement a municipal library at this time. Since this service is not available in the Town, a brief review of the Robeson County Public Library is presented.

The county library is located on Second Street in Lumberton. The library has 18,000 sq. feet for books, contains two meeting rooms and a 250 seat auditorium with a portable stage. Microfilming, projectors, recorders, and record players are provided by the library. Presently the library contains 56,000 volumes, far short of the 90,000 volume capacity. The library also subscribes to 115 periodicals. The average circulation in the library is 2,073 volumes weekly. A bookmobile service provided by the library has a weekly circulation of 615 volumes.

The bookmobile service makes fifty-nine stops twice monthly at various towns and communities within the county. However, Fairmont is not one of these. Library service is provided fifty-eight hours per week.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Fairmont's developed recreation facilities and grounds are provided by agencies other than the municipal government. Robeson County Recreation Department, churches, civic clubs, and other organizations have supportive recreation facilities for Fairmont citizens. Semi-public facilities such as the golf course and the two swimming pools are open to the general public, but participation is limited by user fees.

Fairmont has a public summer recreation program. This program is financed and staffed by Robeson County Recreation Department. The program uses facilities and grounds provided by the Fairmont City Schools.

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Providing additional facilities is one area where the Town could create a viable recreation development program. The County Recreation Department has purchased slightly over one acre along the Mill Branch Canal for a neighborhood park and the county is planning to purchase a community park site of ten acres or more. These sites were funded through a county/community development grant.

Two parcels of land, one approximately 4 acres and one slightly less than one acre have been deeded to the Town for recreation purposes by the Fairmont Housing Authority. These sites are currently undeveloped.

#### PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The following recommendations were listed in two previous planning documents, The Community Facilities Plan and Public Improvement Program and Needs Assessment - Town of Fairmont. These plans were prepared by planning consultants associated with the State of North Carolina in 1967 and 1975 respectively. In order to appraise the progress made in Fairmont's community facility development, these recommendations and the current implementation status are briefly discussed in the following.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

The following recommendations were made in the ...  
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MUNICIPAL BUILDING - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. The Town of Fairmont needs a new municipal building to replace the existing crowded town hall and to provide a better level of municipal services to the community.
2. The Town should purchase land in the block across the street to the south of the town hall. Eventually (toward the end of the planning period), the Town should be the sole owner of land in the block which is bound by Cottage Street to the north, Walnut Street to the east, Main Street to the west, and Mill Branch Creek to the south.
3. On this site, the land use should be changed from the existing residential usage to municipal and civic uses. Of immediate importance in the development of this site is the construction of a new municipal building with landscaped surroundings, and ample off-street parking. All development of this site should follow a professionally designed site plan.
4. The new municipal building should house all Town administrative offices, the police station, courtroom, town meeting hall, small conference rooms, and appropriate storage areas. As new departmental offices are created, they should be furnished adequate space in this building.
5. The new municipal building should be large enough to permit space for future offices as they are needed. The building therefore should be designed so that it will be adequate throughout the 20 year planning period. If this is done, additions during the planning period will be unnecessary

The Town has moved into the old Fairmont Hotel has has sufficient space, however, a major renovation is planned to adapt existing space to departmental needs.

Land is not needed, therefore, not applicable.

Not applicable due to move to the hotel building.

Sufficient overall space available in current Municipal Building and renovations will accommodate departmentalization of this building.

Existing space in Municipal Building is sufficient for a projected 20 year planning period.





## Prior Recommendations

6. When the Town Hall is vacated, the building should be converted for use only by the fire department and rescue squad. (This is further discussed in the section about the fire department).

## Current Status Comments

Building is currently being used for Municipal and Rural Fire Departments.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Prepare a space needs study to determine the space requirements of each municipal office and the police and fire department.
  2. Remodel the second and third floor of the Municipal Building to accommodate the council chambers, offices, and space to rent. Since both the second and third floors will probably not be needed immediately, renting could help defray the cost of renovation when completed, the finance department could be expanded into the present council chambers.
- Plans have been developed and funds allocated for renovation of first floor.
- Second phase of Municipal Building renovation - No funding at present time.

## FIRE PROTECTION - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. Considering the Town's resources and population, the protection rating of seven is sufficient at present. It is important to the citizens not to let this rating be taken for granted. Instead, the Town should strive to keep a favorable level of fire protection facilities that is within the financial means of the Town.

Town has maintained this rating, purchased additional equipment and upgraded water distribution system

2. The National Board of Fire Underwriters asserts that after a 20 year use period the utility of a fire vehicle is limited and should be replaced. Thus, the 1927 LaFrance is far beyond its limit even though it is still operational. It is recommended that this truck be replaced or used only as a reserve vehicle in order to not jeopardize the Town's insurance rating. When this truck and additional trucks are replaced in the future, the bays in the station may have to

Vehicle has been replaced. Two pumps currently operating in the Town are 1969 1,000 GPM American LaFrance and a 1976 1,000 GPM American LaFrance.





be remodeled for the new trucks to be adequately housed. For example, doors may have to be changed to provide clearance for the newer fire truck models.

3. Both the rural and town departments each need to replace a truck in the next two years. Within the latter part of the 1970's, the other city and rural trucks will need to be replaced.

Trucks replaced.

4. A larger fire station is needed in Fairmont. The planning principles listed below are important considerations in selecting a fire station site. Because most of the enumerated standards reflect the present location, the site should be retained for the fire department.

Current space is still inadequate, however the Town has purchased land next to existing station and this site could be made available to Fairmont Rural Fire Department and South Robeson Rescue Unit for a new structure; vacating existing facilities by the rural department would give sufficient space for Town equipment in the future.

a. A fire station should be close to the Central Business district (high value area) and relate to the population density of the Town, its building intensity, physical barriers, traffic pattern, construction type, and the existing degree of fire hazards. It should be close to major and/or secondary thoroughfares on a street that is wide enough to permit safe and quick movement of fire vehicles.

b. The station should not be located at major intersections nor should it be located on a one-way street.

c. Good sight distance should be possible (this requirement eliminates hilly sites and station sites on sharp, curving streets.)

d. Berthing spaces should be accessible from both the front and rear, thus eliminating the need for backing trucks into the station.

e. The station should be located on a site of sufficient size to allow for future expansion.





Upstairs has been and should continue to be used as living quarters for personnel. Training meetings are conducted in space previously occupied by town hall. Bay expansion referred above.

Training is a major emphasis in the department and it is consistent with budgetary constraints.

Communication equipment has been upgraded by a pager system and radio communications on all fire vehicles. Dispatching is accomplished by the Fairmont Communication Center. The system is more efficient and more flexible than a telephone alert system.

5. In consideration of the above site standards, it is recommended that the fire station be expanded when the town hall is relocated. The assistant's upstairs apartment could be converted into a lounge, kitchen, and sleeping quarters for the volunteers to use. Training meetings could take place in the area presently serving as the town hall, or in the upstairs apartment area. If an additional bay for a fire truck was more needed, the town hall could be converted into that use.

6. Although the training program is adequate to meet requirements, it is suggested that the two captains, the assistant and/or the Fire Chief attend one or two State conducted week-long training sessions within the area. This procedure should be followed each year so that new procedures and techniques can be learned and in turn passed on to the other volunteers.

7. The fire fighting policy is good; however, attention should be given to the communications related to fire calls. Fire alarm boxes are not financially feasible in a town the size of Fairmont. The present alert system is not adequate; therefore in addition to the fire whistle, the Town should immediately install a central telephone alert system at the town hall/fire station. At a very small cost this system could immediately alert more of the members and tell them where the fire is. Two-way radios are needed in all fire trucks. This form of communication should be considered standard equipment on any new trucks that are purchased for the fire department.

#### FIRE PROTECTION - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Replace the 1955 Ford Pumper. Pumper replaced in 1977.
2. Replace standard fire fighting equipment and add to the equipment when possible. Current Board policy.
3. Analyze the space requirements of the department in the space needs study of the Municipal Building. Currently under study.





## POLICE PROTECTION - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. Better coverage in terms of police protection cannot be carried out until additional funds are allocated. More money could increase the staff by one or two men, provide equipment that is now lacking, or increase staff salaries.

Police Department has a budget that is 23.76% of the General Fund's Operational Budget (\$131,952 for FY1977-78)

2. The size of the staff is inadequate. One additional man would help alleviate the situation; two more policemen would bring the force to a more effective level of operation. Additional manpower would permit one officer to remain at the police station to keep records, dispatch communications, and work as an administrative representative of the police force to townspeople who come to the police station. It may be necessary to add three or four men to the force during the 20 year planning period. A second patrol car will be needed with an increase in the size of the staff.

The current force consists of a Chief and eight officers, which provide two officers on duty per shift providing 24 hour 7 day per week police protection and in addition, there is non-police dispatchers to cover each shift. Two vehicles are on 24 hour call with one vehicle backup.

3. More training should be given a policeman before he begins his work on the Fairmont staff. The Town should require each member of the force to take some additional training or attend seminars that are held in the surrounding area each year. The Town should provide funds for the staff to attend these training programs.

All police personnel are required to be trained and certified by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standard Council. Additional training is encouraged by the department.

4. The present leased police station should be replaced with a larger office facility and more office equipment. It is recommended that the town jail be attached to the police headquarters so that one man might be the jailer and the on duty station officer at the same time. The police station should be included in the new proposed town hall complex.

Office space in the Municipal Building is sufficient and planned renovations will accommodate departmental needs for the next twenty years.

5. The police force could plan and organize a community wide fund raising activity such as a "fun night", carnivals, ice cream festival, baseball game, or something of like nature. Any profit could initiate a police fund to provide extra equipment.

Town Board does not adopt this policy as police operations; should be supported by operating budget.







6. A community "police education" program should be organized. This could include lectures to school children, films, or safety demonstrations.

7. It is recommended that a county police and fire training center be organized and developed by the fire and police chiefs in the county. For each town in Robeson County to provide training areas would be difficult. On the other hand, a consolidated center could offer a more minimum of expense. A police and fire training grounds would create a more professionally educated public employee. There are presently preliminary plans for a firing range for use by all police forces in Robeson County.

POLICE PROTECTION - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Increase department staff by four officers.

2. Begin a crime prevention program - continuing process of departmental operations.

3. Analyze the space requirements of the department in the space needs study of the Municipal Building.

4. Rearrange the communications center in the Municipal Building.

5. Analyze the feasibility of using a public safety officer(s). This concept could utilize personnel more efficiently by having an individual(s) capable of responding to small, diverse problems relating to both police and fire protection. The League of Municipalities may be able to provide information concerning the development of such a program.

6. Prepare accommodations for female prisoners.

Still needs to be implemented.

The Robeson Technical Institute provides training for public safety programs.

Current police staff of eight officers, a Chief and four dispatchers is sufficient at this time.

Completed - 1977

Completed - 1977

No cost effective and we will continue to transport directly to Robeson County jail.





## WATER SYSTEM - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. A new well should be drilled as soon as possible for a supplementary source of water for the Town. The existing well could serve an additional 1,000 persons but there would be no alternate source of good drinking water if the main well would develop problems. A substitute well could be drilled at the ice plant. The questionable policy of "getting by" with one water source instead of having an acceptable replacement should be eliminated now. Complaints would be long, loud and numerous if the Town were forced to resort to its present substitute. A second good well would provide facilities adequate to meet the needs of the projected population in the planning period.

A second well was put into service at the ice plant location, in addition a third well is programmed for completion in early 1978.

2. The size of new water pipes should be capable of handling water for those areas on the fringe of town that are now outside the town limits. Within the planning period some of these areas may be annexed, thus requiring water service.

All pipes currently being installed are a minimum of 6 inches, with a twelve loop around the town and a 12 inch dissecting line through the town is a current priority phased project.

3. The Town of Fairmont should have a consultant engineer analyze in detail the needs of the water system for the planning period.

Engineering firm has been retained and designs all water projects.

4. The Town should maintain better records of water treatment pumping measurements and consumption so that town officials can act when the capacity is being reached.

Each well site is metered.

5. Within the planning period all 2 inch water lines should be phased out of use. This small line size is not accepted by the National Board of Fire Protection.

Phased elimination of two inch lines has been accomplished or programmed for elimination.

6. The town should encourage large water-using industries to drill their well on a plot that is preferably 100 feet x 100 feet. Additional wells of this kind would aid the water distribution system and supply Fairmont with a supplementary water supply.

Town Board does not support this policy due to the current surplus in water storage and ground water supply





WATER SYSTEM - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

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|---|---|
| 1. Before any new expansion or improvements to the water system begins, identification of problem areas, desirability of expansion, and estimated cost of projects should be determined by an engineer. | Current Town Board policy.  |
| 2. Replace inoperative water meters.  | Major replacement project accomplished and meters are replaced upon becoming inoperative. |
| 3. Pass an ordinance requiring all dwellings and businesses to be connected to municipal utilities, if available.   | Has been accomplished.  |
| 4. Strive to make the municipal utility service profit producing, or at minimum, self-sufficient.   | Has been accomplished.  |

SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM - - 1957 FACILITIES PLAN

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| 1. Construction of a new treatment plant should be given priority. This facility will achieve accepted levels of State standards and provide a better atmosphere for the population of Fairmont.  | A 500,000 gallon facility was constructed in 1970 and 201 Facility Planning is underway.                                 |
| 2. Areas to be annexed within the planning period would need sewage facilities. Likely areas are to the southeast, south, and west of town. New sewers should follow drainage patterns and utilize gravity flow.  | Sewage facilities are available upon annexation.   |
| 3. The town should have an annexation plan indicating areas that are most likely to be annexed during the twenty year planning period. The plan will give the town an idea of the extent of service that may become necessary. All additions of sewer lines will increase the burden of the sewage treatment plant. | Annexation plan has not been developed, however proposed areas have been delineated and will be considered in 201 plans. |
| 4. The Town should have formal engineering plans drawn of the proposed sewer extensions. These extensions should be programmed for installation during the planning period.   | Town has an Engineering Consulting Firm which prepares all water & sewer specifications.                                 |





Prior Recommendations

5. More concise records of sewage treatment, pumping, lines, etc. are needed.
6. Industries should be encouraged to provide their own waste treatment facilities if their processing would make necessary this activity.

Current Status Comments

Records are being kept as to flow, pumping, etc.

This is controlled by a sewer-use ordinance and State and Federal regulations.

WASTE-WATER SYSTEM - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Apply for 201 Facilities Planning. If the Town proceeds with this process, an analysis of the present wastewater system will be accomplished and future needs determined.
2. If the Town does not participate in 201 Facilities Planning, all wastewater system improvements should be preceeded by appropriate engineering studies.
3. Eliminate the use of privies by requiring connection of all dwelling units to a public sewer if it is available. This will help eliminate health hazards.

Not applicable.

Policy adopted, enforcement not accomplished.

STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. The Town should continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers in planning a better storm drainage system for the Fairmont area. All projects should coordinate with drainage improvements scheduled by the Army Corps of Engineers. The project now underway will clean out the Old Field Swamp drainage basin. Ditches will be dredged and widened and the slope for runoff slightly increased.
2. Coordination with the State Highway Commission in the installation of curb and gutters and storm sewers along State maintained thoroughfares in the Town should continue.
3. The Town should provide good maintenance on open drainage ditches located within the corporate limits.

Corps will no longer perform these services. Consulting Engineer currently drafting plans for drainage North Fairmont.

State's priorities have shifted away from curb and gutter work.

Current Town policy.





4. Land subject to flood should have restrictions pertaining to the type of development that is permitted on it. Both the adopted Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance provide some control over development in areas subject to flood.

Both zoning and subdivision regulations are in effect by floodway zoning, Town has entered Federal Flood Insurance Program.

5. As new subdivisions are added, the Town should require the subdivider to make provision for drainage easements and the proper construction of drainage ditches to correspond to Town requirements. The adopted Subdivision Ordinance provides the source of authority for these requirements.

Subdivision Ordinance calls for this

6. The Town should form a policy to deal with storm drainage problems. The future needs are not determined at the present time.

Four detail area drainage plans have been developed for drainage problem areas:

1. Mill Branch Canal
2. Old Field Area
3. Northwest Fairmont
4. Central North Fairmont

#### STORM DRAINAGE - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. In view of the preceding difficulties, a storm drainage study should be completed by engineers. This study should identify problem areas and determine a long-range drainage improvement program. This program should include a determination of priorities for curb and guttering, major drainage channel clearance tiling of ditches, and storm sewers.

A phased project has been developed. Four areas have been examined by engineers.

2. More immediate projects include the following:

- a. Elimination of the Manila-Liberia Street drainage ditch.
- b. Improve or eliminate a drainage ditch that ends near Oakwood Street in North Fairmont.
- c. Eliminate the erosion of the drainage ditch between Church and Iona Street. This is a major drainage ditch that drains all of North Fairmont.
- d. Clean culverts on a systematic basis rather than reacting to blockage as they occur during storms.

Completed.

Programmed for completion FY1977-78

Riprap installed and ditch cleaned 1976.

Maintenance policy adopted.





Project completed - 1977.

e. Improve drainage along Leesville Road. Drainage ditches along this road drain much of the present Central Business District and will also drain the site of a proposed shopping center. The shopping center will cover 5-10 acres of land. A site of this size will increase rain water run-off in the area, which will require drainage channel improvements.

Project completed - 1976. Two park sites are purchased and programmed for development.

3. Clean and develop Mill Branch Canal. As a major drainage channel, the canal should be cleaned to improve drainage throughout Fairmont. As a long-term project, recreational sites could be developed along the canal.

STREET SYSTEM - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

Major street surfacing and resurfacing projects have been completed or are programmed for improvement based on need and existing conditions. Pavement priority is done by Town Board.

1. Contracts should be extended for streets which need resurfacing. Some streets that need the most immediate attention are: Gertrude, Jackson, Trinity, Morro, Pine, Maple and Oakwood.

Capital Improvement Budget and Capital replacement reserve has been incorporated to budgetary process. Equipment is programmed for replacement at end of useful life.

2. The most efficient street service can be given when equipment is in workable order. New equipment should be purchased as funds are available. Replacement of worn equipment should be given priority.

Existing storage and shed area is programmed to double in size in FY1977-79.

3. As mentioned in the later discussion of the Town garage and storage yards, equipment should be housed in a shed or building when not in use.

Town has purchased a street sweeper which operates each day.

4. The street crew should make a weekly effort to sweep streets clean of broken glass wherever necessary. This is a hazard to children and pedestrians as well as vehicles. This action would improve street conditions at minor cost to the Town.





## Prior Recommendations

5. Town officials should study the adopted thoroughfares plan and select a major improvement required by the plan during the planning period. Application should then be made to the State Highway Commission for funds designated in the "Three Million Dollar Highway Bond Program" for use by the Town of Fairmont. The allotment to Fairmont was \$89,000.

6. A high school student could be hired during the summer for a couple of months to repaint street name posts. In many instances the lettering wears so as to be unreadable. This would be a great aid to visitors and to persons from out-of-town making deliveries. This project is likewise a very minor one but could be done very easily with no great cost.

## STREETS AND CIRCULATION - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. The Town should complete the paving of all dirt surfaced streets. Powell Bill Funds and local revenue may be used to accomplish this task. If the unpaved streets are in low to moderate income areas and a need to pave these streets has emerged through the community development process, funds from the Community Development Act of 1974 may also be used to accomplish this task.

2. Resurfacing of streets should be a continuous project. The Town should survey the condition of existing paved streets and set a resurfacing and improvement priority list. Powell Bill Funds and local revenue may be used to accomplish such projects.

3. The Town should begin to replace street signs with signs that will sustain weathering.

4. The Town should implement the ideas of the Central Business District Study of 1968 in regard to downtown parking.

## Current Status Comments

Program no longer in effect, a thoroughfare plan was adopted by State and Town in April 29, 1966.

All existing concrete street signs have been replaced in 1977 by reflective street signs mounted on poles.

Major street surfacing projects have been completed and are programmed to completion in subsequent years. Town has not been funded this grant even though application has been made.

A Town policy.

Project accomplished - 1977.

Under consideration by Chamber of Commerce.





## STREET LIGHTS - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Except for the possible addition of more lights in areas outside the Central Business District, the present lighting fixtures seem adequate, as the light output meets or exceeds a common standard of 2,500 lumens of light. In the Central Business District, the Town could change to lights producing 21,000 lumens of light at a cost of \$.35 more per light per month than the present fixtures. This would raise the lighting in the Central Business District to more than 20,000 lumens of light per fixture, which is a common standard for downtown areas.

A street lighting study was completed in 1976 and minimum implementation has been accomplished. Additional light between intersection could be desirable, but this is dependent upon available funds.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

1. This aspect of community service has few problems as long as the trucks keep running. It is recommended that there is regular maintenance of the trucks so that repairs may be made with as little interruption in service as is possible. When equipment becomes too worn or inefficient, new equipment should replace the old so that a good level of service can be preserved.

All maintenance both necessary and preventive is performed by Town mechanic.

2. It is recommended that the Town adopt the sanitary landfill method of refuse disposal. This procedure of waste disposal involves compacting rubbish and garbage and then covering this material with dirt. The sanitary landfill does not permit breeding of flies and mosquitos and greatly reduces the number of disease transmitters. Its use eliminates smoke and odors that often arise from open dumps. In addition, the sanitary landfill method is favorable because the landscape is not of the open dump variety but effectively hides the usual unsightly dumping of refuse. The N.C. State Board of Health's Sanitary Engineering Division can provide the necessary information and assistance pertaining to installation and operation of the sanitary landfill disposal method.

State regulations have virtually eliminated small town landfills. A certified county landfill is operated by Robeson County.





REFUSE COLLECTION - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

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| 1. Revise the present sanitation fee schedule for non-residential customers.  | Authorization in new municipal Code, however not yet implemented.                          |
| 2. Standard containers should be required of all business customers. The Town could buy such containers and rent them to businesses customers or each customer could purchase the containers.         | See 1. above.  |
| 3. The Town may wish to utilize a transfer station (trash compactor) to reduce costly and time consuming trips to the garbage landfill site.  | Under active consideration.  |
| 4. To further improve garbage collection, the Town may wish to change to curb pick-up in residential areas as opposed to behind the house collection. Curb side pick-up would reduce collection time. | Routing has been revised and improved, however backyard pick-up is still a policy of Town. |
| 5. Consider expanding the sweeping of streets to areas outside the Central Business District. Sweeping at least once per week could improve Town appearance.  | All streets with curbing are swept by Town.  |
| 6. A request should be made for county action to eliminate the dumping of garbage and trash along N.C. 41.  | County has leased this site for a 40-yard trash container.                                 |

MUNICIPAL GARAGE AND STORAGE YARDS - - 1967 FACILITIES PLAN

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| 1. The site and building are capable of meeting present and future needs. It is recommended that the unused ice plant equipment within the building be discarded and minor renovations undertaken so as to render the entire building usable for municipal equipment. A paved yard and sheltered stall for eight vehicles would be adequate. | This facility is presently planned for expansion, particular in the garage and open shed areas.                                |
| 2. Equipment which is now parked, piled, or otherwise located on the property could be easily fenced or screened so as to remove the eyesore from public view. As an alternative solution, this material could be stored inside the building. Fencing might  | All storage and vehicle parking is the Marvin Pittman Building; this is fenced, but could be buffered by additional screening. |





provide the second function of protection from vandalism. Screening for the stockpile area at Linden and Maple Streets should also be considered. The site does not enhance the appearance of the school grounds.

PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

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| 1. An immediate and inexpensive project could be the addition of screening along the fence that encloses the storage yard. Some type of hedge could substantially reduce unsightliness of the area. | To be accomplished with improvement on Reynolds site next to the public works building. |
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CEMETERIES - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

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| 1. The public cemetery on N.C. 130 needs some buffer screening to provide a more attractive appearance. | No action. |
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LIBRARY - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

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| 1. In comparison with other essential needs, such as an adequate water and sewer system a library may seem a luxury, but the Town should begin planning for a public library that will more effectively meet the cultural needs of a growing community. | No planning has been initiated on this project. |
| 2. The first step should be land acquisition, if an existing structure cannot be obtained.  |   |
| 3. In construction, the library should provide approximately one-half foot of floor space for each person in the service area, and should not be less than 1,500 square feet. Adequate off-street parking should be provided.                           |   |
| 4. The library should be open to all residents at least 30 hours per week on a regular schedule with some morning, afternoon, and evening hours.  |   |



5. The library's collection should contain about two books per capita. Four to five thousand new titles should be added annually, 25% of which should be children's books.

6. There should be one full-time member for every 3,000 people and one-third of the staff should be professional librarians certified by the State.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS - - 1975 NEED ASSESSMENT

1. Prepare a Capital Improvements Program. This would be an excellent and logical follow-up to the needs assessment.

Plan is under preparation.

2. Update the subdivision regulations to reflect changes in State regulations and new design principles.

Plan has been updated - - 1977.

3. Prepare a recreation study. In light of the county's recent efforts regarding a county-wide recreation master plan, this would be a timely study.

Study has been completed - - 1976.

4. Prepare engineering studies as needed to analyze the water, sewer, and drainage systems. In regard to the sewer system, the Town should participate in 201 Facilities Planning. These studies will have to be prepared by engineers.

Drainage water and sewer plans have been developed. Town has begun 201 Plan.

5. Revitalize the Planning Board.

Planning Board is active.

6. Prepare a space needs study to determine exactly what is needed to accomplish renovation of the Municipal Building.

Architectural Plans have been developed.

7. Analyze the building permit and code enforcement system.

Still needed.





Prior Recommendations

8. Continue to participate in the community development process.
9. Begin work on the implementation of the Central Business District Study of 1968. Initial responsibility for starting implementation should rest with the Planning Board and the Chamber of Commerce.
10. Prepare a public relations brochure from the information contained in the Community Profile and Analysis Study.
11. Prepare an Industrial Site Feasibility Study.

Current Status Comments

Made applications for funding - 1975-1976.

A current Chamber project.

No action taken.

Completed in Governor's Award Prog





## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are organized by section and category discussed in the foregoing text. These recommendations deal solely with facilities associated with the Municipal Government and relate to the Town's ability to fund the facilities and services in its operating or capital budget. It was felt that it is rather presumptuous for the Town to make improvement recommendations to other public or quasi-public agencies. Although the Town has its opinions on some of these matters and will discuss them openly with the proper authorities, it was felt to be inappropriate to consider them in this portion of the Community Facility text.

### I. PUBLIC SAFETY

#### A. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. Begin first floor renovation of the Municipal Building which will compartmentalize all police activity areas and provide sufficient space for the department for the next twenty years.
2. Continue the educational training emphasis in Police Science, Safety and Management.
3. Continue capital equipment replacement policies for vehicles and radio equipment.
4. Investigate the use of subcompact police cars as a cost saving device.
5. Continue and expand public relations and crime prevention programs, especially youth oriented programs.

#### B. MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT:

1. Seek and maintain the best insurance rating possible.
2. Program capital equipment replacement policies for vehicles and equipment.
3. Replacement of fire vehicles is scheduled every twenty years. The 1955 Ford pumper needed replacement at the writing of the text. It is scheduled for replacement in FY1977-78.



4. Continue recruitment and training of volunteer force.
5. Continue inspections of buildings for Fire Code violations in the Fire District area.
6. Future space requirements and adjustment of existing space should be considered and a long-range space/facility plan developed.

C. FAIRMONT RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT:

1. Consider the possibility of constructing a new fire facility on property purchased by the Town located next to existing station.

D. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER:

1. Begin programmed renovation of Municipal Building to satisfy the space requirements of the Center.
2. Continue with the 911 Emergency Telephone Alert System.
3. Continue capital equipment replacement policies.

E. SOUTH ROBESON RESCUE UNIT:

1. The greatest need of the SRRU is a building facility in which to park vehicles and to use for meetings and training activities. This facility should also have space for the Robeson County Ambulance with a lounge and restroom facilities for on duty county ambulance personnel.
2. As long as the present joint usage arrangement with the county continues, the SRRU does not need its own ambulance. However, if the county, for whatever reason, removes its ambulance, a replacement vehicle would be needed to provide satisfactory ambulance service for Southeastern Robeson County.

II. PUBLIC WORKS

A. ADMINISTRATION:

1. Continue keeping records relating to employment, purchasing and cost analysis.
2. Continue educational emphasis on training, safety, management, and productivity.





#### B. STREETS AND DRAINAGE:

1. Continue to upgrade streets by surfacing unsurfaced streets and by resurfacing streets on a priority basis.
2. Continue efforts to have the railroad rework rail crossings in the Town.
3. Begin implementation of the first phase of the Northwest and Central Fairmont Drainage Study.
4. Continue engineering studies on problem drainage areas.
5. Continue to seek Federal assistance for upgrading the Old Field Swamp Channel located outside of the Town limits.

#### C. WATER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES:

1. Begin construction of well and tank project on Marion Stage Road.
2. Consider installing a 12 inch waterline from new well to existing wells.
3. Continue 12 inch water loop around the Town.
4. Continue capital improvements policies for replacing and upgrading vehicles and equipment.
5. Continue monitoring water flow from well to users.
6. Plan and program waterline extensions into areas contiguous to town limits, where such a program would be cost effective.

#### D. SEWERAGE COLLECTION FACILITIES:

1. Continue the 201 Facilities Program to upgrade wastewater treatment plant and evaluate existing collection system.
2. Enforce water and sewer hookup policies where possible.
3. Plan and program sewer collection lines extensions into areas contiguous to town limits, such a program would be cost effective.

#### E. SANITATION SERVICES:

1. Enforce mandatory refuse collection containers for all commercial and industrial customers.
2. Develop a collection fee schedule to commensurate with volume and number of pickups.





3. Evaluate the cost feasibility of transfer stations.
4. Continue capital improvement policies for replacement of vehicles and equipment.

F. MUNICIPAL GARAGE:

1. Enlarge garage facility.
2. Install a hydraulic grease rack lift in the garage.
3. Continue training and safety programs for vehicle and equipment maintenance.

III. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

A. MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

1. Begin construction phase of proposed renovation to the first floor of the Municipal Building.
2. Prepare detailed plans for second floor renovation.
3. Budget in Future years the funds to complete second floor improvements.

B. MUNICIPAL FIRE BUILDING:

1. Evaluate space needs for future.
2. Develop alternatives for meeting future space needs such as proposing to assist rural department in constructing a new building and the municipal department occupying the rural space or vice versa.

C. MARVIN PITTMAN PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING:

1. Expand the storage yard to include Reynolds property donated to the Town.
2. Construct additional sheltered equipment area.
3. Expand the maintenance garage shop.
4. Fence the Reynolds tract.
5. Buffer or screen the open storage yard from public view.



#### IV. OTHER FACILITIES AND SERVICES

##### A. LIBRARY SERVICES:

1. Until local library facilities are developed, the Town should attempt to obtain from the Robeson County Library mobile book service in the Fairmont community.

##### B. RECREATION:

1. The Town should begin to develop recreation facilities and equipment on the sites donated by the Public Housing Authority. These improvements should be included in the operating and capital budgets.





APPENDIX I

Equipment and Vehicle List





# TOWN OF FAIRMONT 1977

1976 American LaFrance	1 Fire Dept.
1969 American LaFrance	2 Fire Dept.
1974 Ditch Witch	14 Water Dept.
1975 Int. Tractor & Backhoe	17 Street Dept.
1975 Int. Tractor 2400	16 Street Dept.
1964 Ford Tractor	25 Street Dept.
1966 Ford 2 ton Truck (garbage)	27 San. Dept.
1968 Elgin Street Sweeper	29 Street Dept.
1960 Gallion Motor Grader	32 Street Dept.
1972 Chev. 2 ton Truck (garbage)	33 San. Dept.
1976 Chev. Police Car Impala	35 Police Dept.
1974 Chev. Police Car Impala	34 P.W.A.
1974 Chev. Police Car Malibu	36 Police Dept.
1974 Chev. ½ ton Pickup	37 Street Dept.
1972 Ford ½ ton Pickup	38 Water Dept.
1967 Ford Truck & Flusher	39 Water Dept.
1967 Ford 2 ton Truck (State)	40 San. Dept.
1974 Ford Truck (Large Packer)	41 San. Dept.
1973/74 Air Compressor	42 Street Dept.
1973 Leaf Collector	43 San. Dept.
1974 Wood Chipper	44 San. Dept.
1973/74 Int. Tractor & Backhoe 3500	45 Water Dept.
1974 Ford Truck 2 ton	46 San. Dept.
1974 Ford Truck 2 ton	47 Water Dept.
1967 Ford ½ ton Pickup	48 P.W.A.
1975 Chev. 2 ton Truck	49 Street Dept.
1975 Chev. 2 ton Truck	50 Street Dept.
1955 Jeep	51 Fire Dept.
1975 Chev. Impala	52 Admin. Town Manager
1970 Packer	53 Street Dept.
1974 Trailer	54 Water Dept.







